

October 12, 2010

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 12, 2010 at 9:31 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Draper, Kraemer, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioners Craft and Robelotto

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Robelotto; motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Craft and Robelotto)

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Kraemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.

Helen Keller

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

If I were to say, "God, why me?" about the bad things, then I should have said, "God, why me?, about the good things that happened in my life..

Arthur Ashe

Sometimes even to live is an act of courage.

Seneca the Younger, Roman statesman and philosopher (3 BC - A.D. 65)

Commissioner Draper shared an article about Kurt Warner and his philosophy.

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of October 12, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Craft and Robelotto)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Virobik stated that on page 3, paragraph 6, of the minutes of September 14, 2010, the sentence should read: "Commissioner Virobik noted that Focal Point

had in the past, referred people requesting housing to a church that had sponsored the Love Inc. program, but now that program was no longer available.”

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 14, 2010, as amended. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Craft and Robelotto)

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would ask City Clerk Herbers why the Commission needed to approve the minutes with a motion.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Former Commissioner Griffith

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer's reported that the City Council had approved the 2010 Emergency Operations Plan and reminded the Commissioners that sign up for the police email alert system was available on the police department website.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the next CERT training through the fire department would be in March 2011.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the CERT training classes were included in Seasons' class booklets.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council had the final reading of the ordinance that prohibited City employees from serving on commissions.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Mayor had requested that organizations that wanted to use a casino or bingo theme for fundraising needed to consult the state regulations as Torrance did not have their own set of guidelines.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Mayor had announced that the City was looking into ways to improve the appearance of areas in the City, where businesses had shut down and buildings were vacant.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council had examined and voted on recommendations for any upcoming ballot propositions which could impact: fiscal matters, local control or public safety. She summarized the votes and the recommendations:

- Proposition 19 – Legalize Marijuana- NO 6-0
- Proposition 22 – Prohibit State Borrowing Transportation Funds – YES 6-0
- Proposition 23 – Suspend Implementation of Pollution Control –YES 4-2
- Proposition 25 – Vote change from 2/3 to simple majority – NO 4-2
- Proposition 26 - Fees approved by 2/3 vote - NO 6-0

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the City Council would have a budget discussion on October 12.

There was a discussion on the impact of possible budget cuts on employees as well as the increase to program and class fees, for both residents and non-residents.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that there might be reduction in the Police and Fire Departments and that there was no COLA for Social Security for 2011.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Commission on Aging's Annual Report was accepted by the City Council on October 5. She added that the 2010 Census Committee was also recognized by the City Council.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that any Commissioner wishing to donate their Commissioner stipend back to the City, should contact her.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik reviewed the information she had gathered on shared housing:

Buena Park Senior Center:

- Administered by a social worker and a psychologist
- Advertised in monthly newsletter
- Required signed disclaimer and written agreement
- Applicant intake done, list of seekers and providers kept
- Finger printing, background and DMV check done
- City of Buena Park self-insured

Alternative Living for the Aging – West Hollywood

- Used waivers and written agreements
- Facilitator to assist in bringing parties together
- Interviewed but did not guarantee housing
- Used reference checks
- Had application for housing in exchange for services

Westside Center for Independent Living – Santa Monica

- Assistance for disabled persons only
- Landlords apprised them of available properties
- Encouraged developers to designate at least one unit for the disabled

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would pass the shared housing information on to Commissioner Robelotto.

It was announced that D.R. Richardson would be at the November meeting for an update on Section 8 housing and the Mobile Home subsidy.

Former Commissioner Griffith presented information on a renovation project in Redondo Beach.

Commissioner Draper presented information on available exemptions for utility expenses, telephones for the hearing or vision impaired and a veterans home care assistance program.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik noted that most veterans assistance programs did charge a fee for their services and added that she would bring information to the next meeting detailing a free veterans program.

Commissioner Cardella stated that many of the health care reforms began on September 23 and that the Medicare enrollment period would be in November.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that information on the Medicare Advantage Plan would be sent out by the end Of October.

Commissioner Virobik shared information that due to health care reforms, insurance companies would demand higher quality standards from the health care providers.

Commissioner Virobik distributed ten strategies to “stay sharp” and prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be flu shot clinics on November 15 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on November 10 at Wilson Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

D. Transportation

In response to a question from Commissioner Griffith on nominating and honoring taxi drivers from the senior ride program, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the requests would need to go through the transit office.

Commissioner Virobik announced that Access Services was conducting a regional Mobility Resource Center Feasibility Study to determine if the center could serve as a one-stop shop for a number of transit services for seniors, disabled and low income individuals. She added that two members of the Focal Point staff would be participating in two regional roundtable sessions in October and November.

E. Community Programs

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the Senior Citizens Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale would be on November 20 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Cardella announced that on Thursday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the Holiday Festival at Torrance Memorial Medical Center would be free to seniors.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Great American Shake Out would be on October 21 at 10:21 a.m. and those wishing to participate in the drill could call Kathy G. at 310-370-3294.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

August 2010

Total number of documented calls: 46	Total number of callbacks: 52
Miscellaneous calls: 107	Total number of walk-ins: 18
Total number of calls received: 153	

Of the documented calls:

17.4% were in regard to legal services	30.4% were for housing
19.5% were for transportation	

Commissioner Virobik also reported that Focal Point received 5 elder abuse complaints, participated in 2 health fairs and conducted 3 community presentations.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagnostino stated that she would invite Esther Epstein from H.E.L.P. to give a presentation on their services to the Commission next year.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Virobik distributed an article on: “Senior Swindles: Beware of these 4 come-ons.”

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that she and Commissioner Kraemer attended the training for Commission chair and vice chair on September 23 and that the Ethics training for Commissioners was available on line or it could also be taken in another city.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino informed the Commission of an Inspection Trip of the Diamond Valley Lake Reservoir and Lake Skinner Treatment Plant and Solar Farm on October 15, which was being sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District and the City of Torrance.

It was announced that the Torrance Symphony would be performing on October 23 at 8:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theater.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that Commissioner training would be held on October 27.

Commissioner Cardella reported that Historical Society conducted a successful Home tour on October 9 and 10.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded everyone to vote in the November election.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that she had not been chosen for California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

There was a consensus from the Commission to cancel the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Amended November 9, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
